

Message Text

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12
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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O 232230Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4038

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. IN MEETING WITH MILGP ON JULY 23 THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, LTA COL. CESAR ELVIR SIERRA REQUESTED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISH A RAPID COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN COMMANDERS IN TWO DISPUTED BORDER AREAS. THE COMMUNICATIONS LINK WOULD BE UTILIZED TO ALLOW THE COMMANDERS AT THE AREA TO DEAL WITH BORDER CLASHES.

2. HE REQUESTED THE FOLLOW-
ING: A) SUFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS WIRE
TO COVER 20 KILOMETERS (STRAIGHT LINE) IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN;
B) TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO LAY THE WIRE AND ESTABLISH RADIO NETS;
C) RADIOS OF SUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO COMMUNICATE 12 KILOMETERS STRAIGHT

LINE DISTANCE IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN. THE RADIOS SHOULD NOT REQUIRE RELAYS. NET ONE WOULD BE FROM ARCATAO, EL SALVADOR TO VAILADOLID, HONDURAS. NET TWO WOULD BE FROM MONTECA, EL SALVADOR TO SAN SEBASTIAN, HONDURAS.

3. ELVIR SAID HONDURAS IS WILLING TO PAY FOR 50 PCT OF THE EQUIPMENT AND ASSISTANCE. HE STATED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH COL. ROJAS, SALVADORAN CHIEF OF STAFF, TO APPROACH U.S. EMBASSIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES WITH REQUEST.

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4. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING TENSE SITUATION ALONG THE HONDURAN-SALVADORAN BORDER AND THE PTOENTIAL FOR FURTHER ESCALATION, HONDURAN PROPOSAL APPEARS REASONABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE. WE ARE AWARE OF THE POLITICAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS THAT COULD ARISE FROM OUR INVOLVEMENT IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSAL, EVEN THOUGH THAT INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE LIMITED IN SCOPE AND TECHNICAL IN NATURE. IN THE LIGHT OF THE DANGERS POSED BY THE INADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN THE AREA OF CONFLICT HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT GIVE PROMPT AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO THE HONDURAN REQUEST PROVIDING HONDURAS AND SALVADOR CAN WORK OUT THE PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL.

BARTCH

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